

SPECIAL MEETING

June 23, 2015

The Board of City Commissioners of the City of Herington, Kansas, met in special session at City Hall on Tuesday, June 23, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the future of the City, the City Manager search, and City employee's responsibility during the coming months. Present were Mayor Chuck Miller, Commissioner Michelle Stanford, Commissioner Kitty Walter, Commissioner Mark Hager, Commissioner Kat Souza, City Attorney Brad Jantz, City Clerk Debra Wendt, and Department Heads Merlin Oswald, Lori Dornbusch, Kenny Staatz, Mike Wendt, Leo Schlesener, and John Pritchard.

Chuck opened the special meeting. Brad provide some information on the League's City Manager search program, and said that Mike Koss would be glad to give a presentation. He indicated that they have several packages and prices, depending on how much or little you want them to do. Brad also mentioned "Headhunters" employee recruitment, but said they are fairly expensive, and not many municipalities use them. Michelle asked if it would be an option to share a City Manager with four or five other cities. Brad said that he has seen this, but usually in much smaller cities. Kitty said she talked to the City Administrator of Council Grove. Brad explained the difference between the duties and level of power between the City Manager and City Administrator, and told the Commission that the only employee they have control of is the City Manager, because of our form of government. Mark thought that we need a City Manager to oversee the day to day operations. Kitty said that the City Manager has the right to do "a lot of stuff," and that maybe we should have a City Administrator like Council Grove. Mike Wendt pointed out that Council Grove does not have an electrical department.

Mark asked the department heads what they are looking for in a City Manager. Mike had a list of nineteen things, and Kenny Staatz said he is looking for a team builder, and someone who believes in what they are doing. Mark suggested having department heads and some citizens involved in the City Manager search process. Mike assured the Commission that in the meantime, the employees would work hard to make everything run smoothly.

Mark read a letter from Scott McIntyre, who sent us an outline for a City Manager recruitment plan. It was decided to invite Mr. McIntyre, as well as the League of Kansas Municipalities, to the next meeting on July 7th to make presentations. Requirements for the City Manager position, such as BS vs. MPA, to be required or preferred, was discussed briefly. Vance Donahue II said that he had worked as a head hunter, and that people who have their master's degree tend to want much higher salaries, so they can pay for their schooling. Michelle thanked the department heads, and asked that they pass it on to the employees. Tammy Miller asked if we have to have a City Manager. We do unless the form of government is changed. Kat said that she felt communication was missing in the past, but from now on would get better.

At 6:48 p.m. a motion was made by Commissioner Hager, seconded by Commissioner Stanford, for the City Commission, City Attorney, and Interim City Manager to go into executive session for ten minutes to discuss non-elected personnel. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye." At 6:58 p.m. the meeting was back in regular session. No action was taken. A motion was made by Commissioner Stanford, seconded by Mayor Miller, to adjourn the special meeting. Motion carried, all voting, "Aye."

Also present at the meeting were Bob Clark, Ruth Clark, Tim Bettles, Paul Campbell, Marilyn Campbell, Carl Brown, Cynthia Naylor, Tammy Miller, Anastasia Force, D.J. Neuberger, Gloria Boomer, Natasha Barnett, Beth Wade, Andrew Reese, Ken Walters, Eric Gares, Gabriele Simmons, Vance Donahue II, Kristen Sneath, and J.R. Sparke.

Debra Wendt
City Clerk